

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patent for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising a holding member (42) that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate (46) that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece (50), on which the patient bites, and means (58, 60) for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate (46) and said holding member (42), as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system (40) which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken.

2. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein means (58, 60) for detecting the angle of deflection α comprise one or more sensors disposed in said holding member (42).

3. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that wherein means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate (46) are provided.

4. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein driving means (15) are provided for vertical adjustment of said holding member (42) and thus to pivot said plate (46).

5. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 4, characterized in that wherein said driving means (15) move said plate

{46} automatically into a predefined angular position and stop when said predefined angular position is attained.

6. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 4-~~or~~ claim 5, characterized in that wherein said driving means indicate when said predefined angular position of said plate {46} is attained by means of optical and/or acoustic signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said pivoted plate {46} is connected to a rail {54} which is disposed in said holding member {42}, is capable of being moved upwardly and downwardly and has an opening {58} for the purpose of positioning said rail {54} in said holding member {42}.

8. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said bite piece is provided with a replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said bite piece is in the form of a replaceable bite piece {50}.

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} is of a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 9-~~or~~ claim 10, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} is of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 9 to 11 claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} is made of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 9 to 12 claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} occupies an angle β of the dental arch with ranges from 20° and 40° and is, in particular, approximately 30°.

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 9 to 13 claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} has, on its upper surface and on its undersurface respectively, a bite groove {64, 66} for the accommodation of the dental arch of the upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 9 to 14 claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge {70}.

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 9 to 15 claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece {50} has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection {76} and a complementary recess {78} for the accommodation of said projection {76} for releasably fitting said bite piece {50} to said pivoted plate {46}.